

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for harvesting plugs from bone tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a tube having proximal and distal ends and an inner bore running at least part-way therethrough for receiving a bone plug, a distal portion of the inner bore expanding in diameter to form a tapered edge at the distal end of the tube, the tube having

~~(i) proximal and distal ends, and~~

~~(ii) at least one recess spaced apart from the distal end and extending at least part way from an inner surface of the tube to an outer surface of the tube; and~~

a sheath disposed around the tube and including a distal end having a cutting edge for harvesting a bone plug from bone tissue, and a tooth extending towards the inner bore in a direction substantially orthogonal to the cutting edge, for cutting bone in a direction substantially orthogonal to the cutting edge in order to extract a bone plug.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sheath includes one or more markings on an outer surface thereof, the one or more markings corresponding to an amount that the sheath is inserted into bone tissue.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one recess runs toward the proximal end of the tube and begins a predetermined distance away from the distal end of the tube.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the recess comprises an aperture.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tube includes a plurality of recesses that extend at least part way from an inner surface of the tube to an outer surface of the tube, each of which runs toward the proximal end of the tube and begins a predetermined distance away from the distal end of the tube.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a handle attached to the proximal end of the tube for driving the tube and the tooth into bone.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a bone plug formed from articular cartilage and underlying bone tissue.

8-27 (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for harvesting plugs from bone tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a tube having an inner bore running at least part-way therethrough for receiving a bone plug, a distal portion of the inner bore expanding in diameter to form a tapered edge at a distal end of the tube, and the tube having a mating element formed on a proximal end thereof; and

a sheath disposed around the tube and having a cutting edge at a distal end for harvesting a bone plug from bone tissue, and a tooth at the distal end extending towards the inner bore in a direction substantially orthogonal to the cutting edge for cutting bone in a direction substantially orthogonal to the cutting edge in order to extract a bone plug, the sheath including a connector disposed at a proximal end thereof and configured to removably engage the mating element, and a plurality of markings on an outer surface thereof for indicating an insertion depth of the sheath into bone.